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such a bureau a genuinely effective agency for the remedy of unemployment. The report reviews the attempts of both public and commercial employment bureaus to distribute labor and to find work for the unemployed. The inadequacy of these agencies is clearly shown, the former suffering from political interference and the latter being quite unreliable as well as disreputable to a considerable extent. Charitable employment bureaus have not been successful.

The report itself is very brief, the larger portion of the book consisting of appendices comprising material germane to the subject. The replies to letters of inquiry regarding the existence of unemployment and the need of such a bureau show how little accurate knowledge on the subject we actually possess at the present time. More information is a prerequisite for successful work of this character. The investigation of newspaper "want ads" brings to light very interesting information both in respect to the methods of advertisers and of newspapers, and the experience of an investigator in trying to get work illustrates the seriousness of the problem of unemployment during the last winter. "Trade Unions as Employment Agencies" is another valuable appendix. In fact the various appendices furnish very useful material for reference purposes on the general subject of unemployment.

The report favors the establishment of an employment bureau as outlined above. Its success is a question regarding which the reader must suspend judgment. Unless the hearty co-operation of laborers and employers can be gained and all distrust vanquished the experiment will hardly be satisfactory.

GEORGE B. MANGOLD.

St. Louis, Mo.

Holdsworth, W. S. *History of English Law.* 3 Vols. Pp. 1564. Price, \$4.00 each. Boston: Little, Brown & Co.

Various phases of English law have been the subject of detailed historical study but the lack of a general survey induced the author, the vice-president of Saint John's College, Oxford, to attempt this comprehensive work. Every student of comparative institutions will welcome the addition which the volumes make to our knowledge of English jurisprudence. The first volume, which originally appeared in 1903, sketches the framework within which the law acts—the courts and their jurisdictions during the various periods. Most constitutional questions in England have been fought out in the law courts and the political side has often been emphasized by the historians almost to the exclusion of the legal standpoint. Mr. Holdsworth emphasizes the juristic side of these cases to show the development of the laws as a system rather than their social-historical significance.

The last two volumes deal with the various branches of the law itself. Here the social and historical factors of necessity become more prominent. In part the treatment is chronological and in part by topics—

where the latter method makes it easier to show the development of legal doctrine. The subject treated is so large that the history is not completed even by the thousand pages added by these volumes. The Anglo-Saxon and Mediæval Periods are discussed—also the later history of those branches of the common law which attained practically their final form in the mediæval period but the great body of legal development in modern times is still untouched. To cover even so large a field as that treated by Mr. Holdsworth, it has been necessary to make extended use of the monographic researches of other scholars. Indebtedness to other scholars, especially Maitland, is evident and acknowledged throughout the work. To the student of institutions the latter volumes are much the more valuable. The discussion of the way in which Roman law infiltrated into the English and the extent of its influence is exceptionally well done. The same is true of the shift from judge-made to statute law and the development of the law relating to land. Not the least valuable portions of the book are the detailed appendices in which the author has collected an excellent selection of documents to illustrate the early forms of wills, writs and conveyances.

CHESTER LLOYD JONES.

University of Pennsylvania.

Jones, H. *Idealism as a Practical Creed.* Pp. 299. Price, \$2.00. New York: Macmillan Company, 1909.

Not quite the idealism of Berkeley, nor of Kant, notwithstanding the Categorical Imperative; but a still more sublimated and spiritualized idealism than that of Hegel, even, whose teaching is so thoroughly assimilated by the author, an idealism made up of the teachings of Hegel and Carlyle, of Wordsworth and Browning; an idealism in which mind, that has so large a part in the idealism of Hegel, is dominated by spirit.

Wordsworth, expressing himself in the spirit of the writer of the one hundred and fourth Psalm, saw and felt God in all nature. "I have felt," he says,

"A Presence that disturbs me with the joy
Of elevated thoughts."

With Browning, "Love was the supreme motive of his art, and the principle upon which his moral and religious doctrine rests." Love he thought "the sublimist conception attainable by man—the one way in which he dares define his God;—a life inspired by love is the most perfect form of goodness, and is therefore at once man's absolute ideal of conduct, and alone the object worthy of his worship."

"There is no good of life but love."

From Browning's "In a Balcony."

And what is this but the idealism of the New Testament?—of St. Paul, St. John, of Jesus?—love, the fulfilling of the law, love, the greatest of all things. This love, this altruism, is not to be confined to one's own immediate family, kindred, or neighborhood. Let our desires and our aims